

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /072 W
-----095178 191820Z /46

P R 191506Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO USICA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6257
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH

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USICA

EO 11652: NA
SUBJ: AMERICAN RADIO BROADCASTING

SUMMARY: TWO MEETINGS ON JULY 18, OCCASIONED BY THE WARSAW VISIT OF VOA DIRECTOR R. PETER STRAUS, PROVIDED FRAMATIC CONTRAST BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE POSITIONS OF THE POLISH ESTABLISHMENT AND THE "DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION" ABOUT THE PROPER ROLE OF AMERICAN RADIO BROADCASTS TO POLAND. TADEUSZ MAZOWIECKI, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE CATHOLIC MONTHLY "WIEZ," URGED THE FULLEST POSSIBLE COVERAGE OF THE SITUATION WITHIN POLAND AND OF ACTIVITIES IN BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORLDWIDE. THE VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MARIAN DOBROSIELSKI, IN A SEPARATE MEETING, ARGUED FOR A MORE RESTRICTED ROLE THAT WOULD EXCLUDE, INTERALIA, ANALYZES OF POLICIES AND "INTENTIONS" OF OTHER COUNTRIES, SPECIFICALLY THE SOVIET UNION, AND REPORTING THAT MAKES HEROES OR MARTYRS OUT

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OF "SO-CALLED DISSIDENTS." DIRECTOR STRAUS EXPLAINED TO BOTH MEN THE BASIC ROLES PRESCRIBED BY THE VOICE OF AMERICA MANDATE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A MEETING AT THE EMBASSY, MAZOWIECKI SAID ONE OF THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS FOR POLISH DISSIDENTS -- OR THE " DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION," AS HE PREFERS -- IS

LACK OF INFORMATION. FOREIGN RADIO CAN BE VERY
HELPFUL IN PROVIDING SUCH INFO OUT ACTIVITIES

IN POLAND, HE SAID, CITING AS AN ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT
EXAMPLE THE NEWS ABOUT THE DISTURBANCES ON POLAND'S
BALTIC COAST IN DECEMBER 1970. MAZOWIECKI SAID
WORD OF THOSE EVENTS FIRST REACHED THE POLISH PEOPLE
THROUGH RADIO FREE EUROPE, AND ADDED THAT HE WOULD
LIKE TO SEE MORE REPORTING ABOUT GENERAL SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN POLAND. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED A
NEED FOR REPORTING WHICH PULLED TOGETHER ISOLATED
HAPPENINGS AND PLACED THEM IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF
POLAND'S OVERALL SITUATION.

2. REGARDING NEWS FROM OUTSIDE POLAND,
MAZOWIECKI SAID REPORTS ABOUT THE CARTER ADMINI-
STRATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIONS HAVE HELPED SUSTAIN
PEOPLE SUCH AS HIMSELF. HE QUICKLY ADDED, HOWEVER,
THAT THE POLISH DISSIDENTS LOOK FIRST TO THEIR OWN
RESOURCES AND DO NOT DELUDE THEMSELVES BY PLACING
ALL THEIR HOPES ON ASSISTANCE FROM ABROAD.
MAZOWIECKI REJECTED THE SUGGESTION THAT REPORTING
ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES MIGHT BE "COUNTERPRODUCTIVE."
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RATHER, HE SAID, WHENEVER THERE IS A LETUP IN PUBLIC
STATEMENTS AND OTHER ACTIONS SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS
IT IS EASIER FOR THE POLISH REGIME TO TIGHTEN
PRESSURE ON THE DISSIDENTS.

3. AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LATER IN THE
MORNING, VICE MINISTER DOBROSIELSKI REITERATED
AND EXPANDED ON SEVERAL ARGUMENTS HE HAD PRESENTED
TO DIRECTOR STRAUS THE PREVIOUS EVENING DURING A
DINNER AT AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE'S RESIDENCE. HIS
BASIC POINT WAS THAT POLES WELCOME VOA REPORTING
ABOUT AMERICAN POLICY AND DEVELOPMENTS IN AMERICAN
SOCIETY BUT NOT ABOUT POLISH AND SOVIET AFFAIRS.
AMERICAN BROADCASTS ARE PARTICULARLY TROUBLING, HE
SAID, WHEN THEY TRY TO ANALYZE THE "INTENTIONS" OF
OTHER COUNTRIES, OR WHEN THEY TRY TO PORTRAY
DISSIDENTS AS EITHER HEROES OR MARTYRS, WHEN THEY
ARE REALLY NOT EITHER.

4. AT THE AMBASSADOR'S DINNER PARTY, DOBROSIELSKI
HAD COMPLAINED THAT THE VOICE OF AMERICA WAS
BEGINNING SOUND MORE LIKE RADIO FREE EUROPE.

PRESSED BY DIRECTOR STRAUS FOR SPECIFICS,

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SS-15 ICA-11 /072 W
-----096096 191820Z /46

P R 191506Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO USICA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6258
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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DOBROSIELSKI CITED BUT ONE: THE RECENT VOA CORRESPONDENT'S REPORT ABOUT ANDRZEJ BRAUN'S SPEECH AT THE WRITERS UNION CONFERENCE IN KATOWICE LAST APRIL. THAT REPORT, AND A SUBSEQUENT JACK ANDERSON COLUMN ABOUT HOW IT WAS HANDLED, HAD CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY FOR POLAND, DOBROSIELSKI INDICATED. BEYOND CITING THIS ONE CASE, HOWEVER, DOBROSIELSKI SPOKE ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT POLAND'S POLITICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC POSITION, THE LACK OF ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTE, AND HIS OWN CONVICTION THAT QUIET DIPLOMACY IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN PUBLIC ACCUSATION -- FOR SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED AS WELL AS FOR DETENTE GENERALLY.

5. AMBASSADOR ZDZISLAW SZEWCZYK, HEAD OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY, ALSO
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ATTENDED THE MEETING AT MFA. IN ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION ABOUT HOW VOA'S ROLE, WHICH SZEWCZYK SAID HE UNDERSTOOD HAD BEEN CONTRACTED SOMEWHAT OVER THE YEARS, EXTENDED TO BROADCASTING ABOUT EVENTS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, DIRECTOR STRAUS EXPLAINED THAT ONE PART OF VOA'S MANDATE INCLUDED RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPORTING THE NEWS, WHEREEVER IT OCCURED. STRAUS ADDED THAT SOME OF THE NEWS WOULD INEVITABLY BE ABOUT POLAND, GIVEN THE COUNTRY'S HISTORY, STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE AND CULTURAL VITALITY. THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS SAID RUEFULLY THAT THEY WISHED POLAND COULD STAY OUT OF THE LIMELIGHT.

6. COMMENT: MAZOWIECKI'S COMMENTS WERE MADE WITHOUT DRAWING ANY APPARENT DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE VOICE OF AMERICA AND RADIO FREE EUROPE. DOBROSIELSKI, HOWEVER, CLEARLY INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO STATIONS, THOUGH HE SAID HE DID NOT LISTEN REGULARLY TO EITHER ONE. IT SEEMS EVIDENT FROM HIS COMMENTS THAT POLAND HAS RECEIVED SOME HEAT FROM THE SOVIET UNION ON VOA BROADCASTING, SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE ANDRZEJ BRAUN REPORT AND THE JACK ANDERSON COLUMN. DOBROSIELSKI'S COMPLAINT ABOUT SPECULATION CONCERNING THE "INTENTIONS" OF OTHERS APPEARED TO BE DIRECTED AGAINST VOA COVERAGE OF THE WHOLE RANGE OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. END COMMENT.

7. AT DINNER PREVIOUS EVENING ONE "ESTABLISHMENT" JOURNALIST ALSO TOLD AMB SCHAUFELI THAT VOA SHOULD CONFINE ITSELF TO REPORTING ON US SCENE AND TARGET POLISH "ESTABLISHMENT". WHEN AMB ASKED WHETHER HE EXPECTED RADIO MOSCOW TO FOLLOW SAME PRINCIPLE HE THREW HIS HANDS UP
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WITH NO OTHER RESPONSE.
BRADSHAW

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WARSAW06126
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780296-0852
Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Office: ACTION EUR
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1949767
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: SOPN
To: ICA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3c723570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014